



# FLASHPOINT

## The Lynchburg Fire & EMS Official Newsletter

### Chief's Corner

#### Back To The Basics

I have just returned from the Fire Department Instructor's Conference in Indianapolis, where 20,000+ firefighters and emergency service professionals gathered to learn the most innovative training methods and see the newest products to help them do their jobs.

I have weighed many factors to determine the underlying theme for this year's conference. I say "underlying" because, of course the main focus was on the remembrance of the firefighters killed on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Many of us struggled to accept that folks like Ray Downey, Andy Fredricks, and Chris Blackwell were not beside us teaching the two days of Hot Training or giving conference presentations. I will always be thankful that I taught with, responded with, and knew those proud fire service instructors and warriors.

In reflection, it would seem to me that most of the conference presentations and hands-on training scenarios pertained to getting back to basics like forcible entry, ventilation, hose line placement, and more importantly, getting yourself out alive when things go bad. These are the kinds of things make the difference during critical times when we are engaged in the business of saving lives and property.

With that as a backdrop, I would like for all shift captains to review basic efficiency skills with their members, run scenario-based drills, and review the procedures we have in place should they become separated from their crew or be cut off from a safe exit during a fire. What will they say and do when they are lost? What procedures will we use to find them, and where can we expect them to be, based on previous training?

Make sure our people practice starting the saws and operating other specialized equipment. Practice pulling hand lines and advancing them properly. If you identify key shift or department weaknesses, advise the Battalion Chief of Training so that these areas can be addressed.

As we progress and become more specialized, let's make sure we are as efficient as possible with our basic skills. I say this

because as we examine firefighter injuries and fatalities, it is usually the basic areas that cause the greatest concern.

As you perform these training drills, invite your Battalion Chief to participate. Also, don't be reluctant to invite the Deputy Chiefs and me. None of us mind getting our hands dirty or giving input on difficult fireground operational decisions.

Thanks for continuing to do a great job and making me proud to be a part of this great department. Train hard and long, and stay safe.

*Bunchley*

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## 2002 Recruit School Begins

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the 2002 Recruit School officially began. The eight-week program is designed to teach new recruits basic concepts of Fire & EMS Department operations. It includes Firefighter I and II modules, EMS review, Haz-Mat Operations and EVOC. Firefighter I and II training will conclude with a skills review and physical abilities test in the burn building at the Training Center. This year's recruit class consists of 10 department recruits and participation from a member of the Altavista Volunteer Fire Department.

The News and Advance is shadowing two of our recruits, Katherine Dunnville and Stuart Massie, through the entire program. They will feature several articles during the entire eight-week period.

A special thanks to all of the instructors for their time and dedication in teaching these new members of our department.

## Welcome New Recruits!

### Department Celebrates 25th Anniversary of EMS Service Delivery

After many years of private ambulance service, the citizens of Lynchburg began receiving Fire Department-based emergency medical services in the Spring of 1977. Beginning with two ambulances, the Lynchburg Fire Department saw the need to hire twelve EMS providers to staff these units on a 24-hour basis. The original medic unit employees included:

Danny Booker  
Terry Floyd  
Rusty Johnson  
Steve Wade

Richard Cothran  
Mike Hagar  
Arthur Lipscomb  
Webster Warrick

Mike Farmer  
David Inge  
Mike Monroe  
Mark Whitting



In the late 1970's department members began receiving Advanced Life Support training to provide a higher level of care to the Lynchburg community. Today the Lynchburg Fire & EMS Department (LFD) provides professional and progressive emergency medical services through the staffing of all fire apparatus with Emergency Medical Technicians and ambulances with Paramedics.

On March 27, 2002, in a ceremony at the new Med-Flight III hangar, the LFD was recognized for providing 25 years of emergency medical services to the City of Lynchburg. Many local dignitaries and politicians attended the ceremony, which was also held to dedicate the Virginia State Police hangar.

During the ceremony, the department was presented with a proclamation from the City of Lynchburg and the Virginia General Assembly recognizing the anniversary of EMS in the LFD. This celebration was sponsored jointly by The Lynchburg Fire Fighters Association and the Lynchburg Fire & EMS Department.



2002 Recruit School Pictured Above:

Kneeling: Tim Jackson; Front Row: Stuart Massie, Kim Karabin, Katherine Dunnville, Scott Hargis, David Cox. Back Row: Van Johnson, Jim Wilson, Stephen Ripley, Nick Thomas, and William Copes (Altavista VFD).

### Haz-Mat Team Strengthens Its Partnership With Westover Dairy

On April 15th, Jim Ennes, representative from the Ammonia Safety Training Institute (ASTI) of California, visited Lynchburg to instruct an Advanced Ammonia Emergency Class. The class was comprised of Haz-Mat Team Members from the Lynchburg Fire & EMS Department and Technicians from Westover Dairy.

Participants reviewed the daily operations at Westover and studied how ammonia incidents throughout the United States have affected life safety and the community.

This training had a positive impact on the developing partnership between Lynchburg Fire & EMS Department's Haz-Mat Team and Westover Dairy. Mr. Ennes commented that Westover Dairy's proactive approach and preparedness, coupled with its Lynchburg Fire & EMS Department partnership, is paramount in mitigating any future incidents.



## Safety Corner

### Propane Tank Safety and New Requirements

As warmer weather approaches, a large number of people will be preparing food on gas grills.

As of April 1, 2002, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) requires that all propane gas tanks sold to consumers for barbecue grills must have a new safety device. This over-fill prevention device will help avoid propane leaks that can cause fires and explosions. The new standard is published by the National Fire Protection Association. It is anticipated that as people trade in their old propane tanks for newer ones, we will see fewer fires.

Propane gas is highly flammable. Each year, about 600 gas grill fires/explosions occur, resulting in injuries to about 30 people. The new safety standard for propane gas tanks requires that an "over-fill prevention device" be installed in new gas tanks. The new propane gas tanks have valve handles with three "lobes" (prongs) while older tanks have valve handles with five prongs. Beginning April 1, only the new propane tanks may be sold or refilled nationwide. Older tanks must be replaced rather than refilled, and while some dealers are exchanging tanks at no charge, other are collecting a \$10 to \$20 fee to do so.

An additional industry standard (adopted in 1995) provided for several safety features in gas grills, hoses, and connections. The safety standard calls for a device to limit the flow of gas if the hose ruptures, if a mechanism to shut-off the grill if it overheats, and a device to prevent the flow of gas if the connection between the tank and grill is not leak-proof. People who have grills that do not meet the 1995 standard should either get a new grill or be especially attentive to the safety tips below.

- Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes, and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing.
- Move gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces and dripping hot grease.
- Always keep propane gas containers upright.
- Never store a spare gas container under or near the grill or indoors.
- Never store or use flammable liquids such as gasoline near the grill.
- Never keep a filled container in a hot car or car trunk. Heat will cause the gas pressure to increase, which may open the relief valve and allow gas to escape.
- Make sure your spark igniter consistently generates a spark to ignite the propane gas. If the flame is not visible, the heavier-than-air propane gas may be escaping and could explode.
- Never bring a propane tank into the house.



Have a safe grilling season,  
*Rick*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Lynchburg Fire Fighters Association is sponsoring the following upcoming events:

### RETIREE'S DINNER

Date & Location: May 31, 2002 - The Ramada Inn

Invitations will be forthcoming; however, if you would like more information, contact Lewis Thomas (Station 1).

### MDA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date & Location: July 19, 2002 - London Downs Golf Course

Entry Fee: \$200 per team

For more information or to register, Jason Campbell (Station 6), or Jimmy Mitchell (Station 3).



## Fire Department Honored

Members of Parks & Recreation's Senior Adult Program honored the Fire & EMS Department on April 17<sup>th</sup> with a "Fire & EMS Celebration Luncheon" at the Jefferson Park Recreation Center.

Chief Martinette shared some of his Pentagon experiences in the aftermath of 9/11. The department was also presented with a Certificate of Commendation signed by Governor Warner and a Certificate of Recognition from the Senior Adult Program.

The department is appreciative of the generosity and compassion that has been shown to the fire & EMS service. Most of all, thanks to our members who risk their lives every day in order to deliver crucial services to our community.



## Captains Promotional Process Update

After receiving numerous comments and valuable feedback, the Captains Promotional Policy has been reviewed (and revised) by Senior Staff and the Human Resources Captain with careful thought and consideration.

It was determined that preparing potential candidates for transition to the new process necessitated that ample time be given to provide training opportunities with regard to assessment centers and personal assessment reports. Therefore, the process will be delayed for six months.

The department is committed to a quality promotional process that is fair and results in the promotion of the best candidates.

If you have any questions, contact HR Captain John Spinner.

## Lynchburg Chapter of IAPBFF Adopts Name Change



On April 1, 2002, the Executive Board of the organization formerly known as the Lynchburg Local for the International Association of Professional Black Firefighters changed its name.

The organization will now be known as the Lynchburg Progressive Firefighters Association (LPFA).

Members elected the organization's name change in order to better reflect its mission and goals as set forth by the organization. Their mission/goals include being a progressive entity that works toward community enhancement and provides a mechanism for meeting the needs of a diverse community.

Ronnie Lewis  
President (LPFA)

## Class Act Awards

The following members received Class Act Awards in April.

- **Jody Mayberry**  
Completion of Shock Trauma
- **Lee Day**  
Completion of Executive Fire Officer Program
- **Keith Johnson**  
Completion/certification as a Tank Car Specialist
- **Jennifer Carey, Scott Hudson, Todd Styles**  
Completion/certification as Child Safety Seat Technicians
- **Jeannie O'Brien and Tammy Sage**  
Certification in CPR
- **Art Lipscomb, Robert Lipscomb, and Tammy Sage**  
Efforts in coordinating the department's 25<sup>th</sup> EMS Anniversary celebration/dedication service
- **Linda Eagle, Bert Fisher, and Moe Bruce**  
Participating in the interview process for hiring new recruits
- **Station 2 - B Shift**  
Providing assistance to the faculty of Sandusky Middle School by providing facilities for the delivery of a community outreach program
- **Barry Crabtree and Sean Regan**  
Providing exceptional service to a citizen
- **Tammy Sage**  
Coordinating the department's participation in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl-A-Thon

**Way To Go!**

## Service Anniversaries May

	<u>Years</u>
Art Lipscomb	25
Alan Spence	25
Mike Bort	23
Kent Ferguson	22
Carolyn Anders	21
Chris Adams	8
Kara James	3

## Recent Certifications and Development

Jason Campbell	Fire Officer I
Scott Kelly	Fire Officer I
Steve Jackson	Fire Officer I
Greg Wormser	Fire Officer I
David Jackson	Basic Pump Operations
Earl Copes	Basic Pump Operations
Roger Harris	Basic Pump Operations
Tim Pickle	Basic Pump Operations
Doug DeJarnette	Fire Marshal Academy (Inspector 1031)

## Operation Smoke Detector Website

A website for has been established to provide citizens with information about "Operation Smoke Detector." In addition, they can sign up on-line to volunteer their time, as well as make financial contributions to help with this project. Be sure to visit the website at [www.operationsmokedetector.org](http://www.operationsmokedetector.org)

## EMSAT Video

The March edition of the EMSAT Video Series is now available in the Training Division. This month's featured video is entitled, "Management of Chest Trauma."



Remember, this is an easy way to earn continuing education units!